

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

INTERIM WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

April 29 - 30, 2008

House Bill 831 Update
(new information in BOLD)

I. Applications Received under HB 831

- a. **Fifteen** applications (see attached table)
- b. Three were filed under 85-2-360(6), they are refilled applications that were returned after the TU v. DNRC decision was issued. Will retain original priority date.
- c. One of the 3 above has been terminated for lack of response to deficiency letter (90-days)

II. Administrative Rules

- a. Net Depletion: effective February 1, 2008.
- b. Filing Fees: effective February 15, 2008.
- c. Correct and Complete Objections: effective March 28, 2008.
- d. Contested Case Hearings: Rules updating the existing hearing procedures are being drafted and are expected to be published this spring. These rules would affect all permits and change applications are not limited to closed basins.
- e. Hearings conducted under MCA 85-2-310 and 314: A hearing may be requested by an applicant where the Department has proposed to modify or deny a permit or change application through the issuance of a Statement of Opinion where no contested case hearing with objectors was held. In addition, where the Department proposes to revoke a permit or change authorization, the water right holder as an opportunity for hearing. Rules establishing the procedures for conducting these hearings will be drafted over the next 6 months.
- f. Correct and Complete Application Rules: Original rules became effective January 1, 2005. Through two years of operating under the rules, needed clarifications and updates have been identified. Drafting will begin later this spring.
- g. Historic Consumptive Use: An applicant for a change in appropriation water right is required to identify the historic diverted flow rate and the historic consumptive use of the existing appropriation water right. With more original owners and persons knowledgeable of the historic use and operation passing on, new owners are having great difficulty in providing information on historic use. What part of the historic use was consumed by the crop is especially difficult to estimate. The Department's technical and program staff are looking at developing guidelines for estimating historic consumptive use that could be used to develop a rule that would provide a starting point

for applicants. This might be a table, by climatic area, that would contain typical crop consumption figures for existing irrigated lands with pre-1973 water rights. The Department will likely consult with other interested persons and professionals in developing a proposed rule and conduct a couple public scoping meetings to gain input.

III. Recruitment of New Staff Associated with HB 831

- a. Attorney position was offered and applicant turned it down. Re-noticed position and **interviews being conducted.**
- b. Geohydrologist hired October 1, 2008.
- c. Water Resource Specialist hired February 4, 2008.
- d. Water Resource Technician position **vacancy notice closes May 5, 2008.**

IV. HB39 – Automation of Water Right Ownership (effective July 1, 2008)

- a. Passed in the 2007 Session to automate updating the ownership of water rights
- b. In order to maintain current ownership records, DNRC and DOR have matched legal land description records and are entering geocode numbers into the water right records. [over 90% match of geocodes to water rights]
- c. **DOR Contract with Tyler, Inc to add water right fields to DOR Orion system anticipated to be complete mid-June.**
- d. As property changes hands, DOR will send new owner names with their geocodes so DNRC can electronically update the water right with the new owner's name. DNRC will then pass back the water right number(s) for the parcel to upload into Cadastral system.
- e. **DOR is currently modifying the Realty Transfer Certificate (RTC) to accommodate the HB39 requirements. The "Certification of water right ownership update" form will be made a part of the RTC.**
- f. **Montana Realtors Association are adding the language of 85-2-424(7), MCA below to their Buy-Sell Agreement forms.**

(7) Any written agreement to transfer land that has appurtenant water rights on record with the department must contain the following disclosure or words of a similar nature:

"WATER RIGHT OWNERSHIP UPDATE DISCLOSURE:

By Montana law, failure of the parties at closing or transfer of real property to pay the required fee to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for updating water right ownership may result in the transferee of the property being subject to a penalty. Additionally, in the case of water rights being exempted, severed, or divided, the failure of the parties to comply with section 85-2-424, MCA, could result in a penalty against the transferee and rejection of the deed for recording."

WATER RIGHT APPLICATIONS REC'D UNDER HB831

4/28/2008

<u>Basin</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>App Type</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Rec'D Date</u>	<u>To Hydrolgt</u>	<u>Defcy Letter Sent</u>	<u>Deemed CC</u>	<u>Ea Completed</u>	<u>Public Notice To Applicant</u>	<u>Published Noticed</u>	<u>Objection Received</u>	<u>Sent to Hearing Unit</u>	<u>Hearing Date</u>
41B	*30028374	600	SITZ RANCH MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP	6/19/2007	8/16/2008	8/21/2007	9/21/2007	9/19/2007	9/10/2007	10/24/2007	10/30/2007	12/27/2007	8/5/2008
41B	*30028375	600	SITZ RANCH MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP	6/19/2007	8/16/2008	8/21/2007	9/21/2007	9/19/2007	9/10/2007	10/24/2007	10/30/2007	12/27/2007	8/5/2008
41I	30028560	600	GLACIER POINT HOME OWNERS & WATER USERS ASSN INC	7/2/2007		8/2/2007	10/19/2007	11/27/2007	11/30/2007	11/13/2007	12/13/2007	2/7/2007	Examiner assigned
41I	30028566	606	GLACIER POINT HOME OWNERS & WATER USERS ASSN INC	7/2/2007		8/14/2007	10/26/2007	11/28/2007	11/30/2007	11/13/2007	1/10/2007	2/7/2007	Examiner assigned
76H	30028713	600	HELMER, JIM W & SKERGAN, PATRICIA	7/23/2007	8/14/2007	9/17/2007	11/28/2007	11/28/2007	11/29/2007	12/6/2007	12/11/2007	2/8/2007	Examiner assigned
41G	*30029173	600	HOLLOWTOP PARTNERS LLC	8/22/2007	9/6/2007	9/26/2007		TERMINATED 12/27/07					
41H	30029944	600	MAUS, RICHARD H	11/1/2007	11/9/2007	2/25/2008		11/15/2007					
41H	30029946	606	MAUS, RICHARD H	11/1/2007	11/9/2007	2/25/2008		11/15/2007					
76H	30030100	600	MACLAY, TOM	11/14/2007	12/5/2007	3/6/2008							
76H	30030098	606	MACLAY, H BRUCE & MARY B	11/14/2007	12/5/2007	3/6/2008							
76G	30031047	600	NORTHWOODS GROUP, LLC	2/5/2008	2/12/2007	3/12/2008							
41I	30041569	600	FRONTIER VILLAGE	3/19/2008	3/21/2008	3/27/2008							
41I	30041631	600	SIMMONS, BARRY J & KELLY	3/26/2008	3/31/2008								
41I	30041632	606	SIMMONS, BARRY J & KELLY	3/26/2008	3/31/2008								
41G	30041762	600	HOLLOWTOP PARTNERS LLC	4/14/2008	4/15/2008								

* Refiled Application under 85-2-360(6): maintains original priority date

600 = Permit Application

606 = Change Application